Royston
Urban District Council.

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1904,

—BY—

BUSHELL ANNINGSON, M.D., M.A.,

Cambridge University Lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence,
Late University Examiner in State Medicine,
Fellow and Member of the Council and late Member of the Board of Examiners of the Royal Sanitary Institute,
Fellow and Member of the Council Royal Institute Public Health,
For. Assoc. Mem. Soc. Française d' Hygiéne,
Associate King's College, London,
Asst. Examiner Science and Art Department, S. Kensington,
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT.

I beg leave to communicate to the Royston Urban District Council my Annual Report for the year 1904 on "the conditions affecting the health in the District and the means for improving those conditions," and in addressing myself to this task I have to point out to the Council that by the "Memorandum as to the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health," issued by the Local Government Board, October, 1904, I am directed to discuss prescribed subjects in definite order, and give information which may seem superfluous to the Council. The following extract from the Memorandum will make clear the intention of the Local Government Board:—

> "As subjects concerning which the Board desire to obtain, through Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health not only definite general information, but record also of particular changes of condition that may have occurred incidentally or by action of the Local Authority, the following deserve especially to be borne in mind:
>
> "Physical features and general character of the District.
>
> "House accommodation, especially of the working classes; its adequacy and fitness for habitation. Sufficiency of open space about houses, and cleanliness of surroundings. Supervision over erection of new houses.
>
> "Sewerage and Drainage: its sufficiency in all parts of the District. Condition of sewers and house drains. Method or methods of disposal of sewage. Localities where improvements are needed.
>
> "Excremental disposal: System in vogue; defects, if any.
>
> "Removal and disposal of house refuse—whether by public scavenger or occupiers; frequency and method.
>
> "Water Supply of the District or its several parts: its source (from public service or otherwise), nature (river water, well water, upland water, etc.), sufficiency, wholesomeness, and freedom (by special treatment or otherwise) from risks of pollution.

"Places over which the Council have supervision, *e.g.*, lodging-houses, slaughter-houses, bake-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, factories and workshops, and offensive trades.

"Nuisances: Proceedings for their abatement—any remaining unabated.

"Methods of dealing with infectious diseases: Notification; isolation hospital accommodation and its sufficiency; disinfection.

"With regard to such points it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board and of the County Council as well as for the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances and a history of local sanitary questions, which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies."

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistic Population etc.

I estimate the population of the district to the middle of the year 1904 at 3584 and use this number as the basis for calculation of Vital Statistics.

Deaths and Death-rate.

The total number of deaths registered within the District is 59, which, as usual, must be corrected by a subtraction of deaths in Public Institutions in the District of persons not belonging to it, viz.: 15, which occurred in the Union Workhouse, and by an addition of 1 belonging to the District which occurred in the Three Counties' Asylum, situate outside the District, making a corrected total of 45 (25 males, and 20 females), equal to a death-rate from all causes and at all ages of 12·5 per thousand living per annum. The mean death-rate for the previous seven years is 13·7. The death-rate for England and Wales for the year 1904 is given as 16·2 in the summary of the Registrar-General contained in the appendix to his report for the last quarter of the year.

Epidemic Mortality.

The deaths due to the chief epidemic diseases during the year have been four, all from Diarrhœa, equal to a death-rate from these diseases of 1·11 per thousand living per annum. The mean death-rate for the previous seven years is 0·68.

Influenza.

Influenza has caused no deaths.

Births and Birth-rate.

The total number of births registered is 79 (36 males and 43 females) equal to a birth-rate of 22·0 per thousand living per annum. The mean birth-rate for the previous seven years is 22·3. The birth-rate in England and Wales for the

year 1904 is given as 27·9, which is 0·5 per 1000 lower than the rate in 1903 and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

Infantile mortality, as represented by the ratio of deaths of children under one year of age to 1,000 registered births is 113. The mean rate for the previous seven years is 102. Infantile Mortality.

Registration Sub-District.	Registered Deaths belonging	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	Cottage Hospital.	Share of Workhouse.	Three Counties Asylum.	Corrected Total.	Death-rate.
Royston	37	0	1	6	1	45	12·5

The number of deaths from Phthisis among persons belonging to the District is 2, and the death-rate is 0·55 per thousand. Phthsis and Cancer.

The number of deaths from Cancer among persons belonging to the District is 1, and the death-rate is 0·27 per thousand.

The number of deaths from Diarrhœa among persons belonging to the District is 4, and the death-rate is 1·11 per thousand.

The deaths and death-rate from Phthisis, Cancer, and Diarrhœa in the District among persons belonging thereto for the previous seven years are set out in the following table :

	PHTHISIS.		CANCER.		DIARRHŒA.	
	Deaths.	*Death-rate.*	*Deaths.*	*Death-rate*	*Deaths.*	*Death-rate.*
1897...	3	0·87	3	0·87	2	0·58
1898...	5	1·44	5	1·44	1	0·28
1899...	9	2·58	3	0·86	2	0·57
1900...	5	1·43	7	2·00	0	0·00
1901...	2	0·56	7	1·99	0	0·00
1902...	3	0·84	5	1·41	0	0·00
1903...	4	1·12	5	1·40	0	0·00
Average for years 1897—1903.	4·4	1·25	5·0	1·42	0·7	0·20

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Disease Incidence.

Disease of an infectious character has been much less prevalent than during the previous two years, as shown by the following Table :

	1902.	1903.	1904.
Scarlet Fever ...	4	41 (16)	1 (1)
Diphtheria ...	3	6 (2)	0
Typhoid Fever ...	0	3	0
Erysipelas ...	3	5	4
Chicken Pox ...	2	0	0
	12	55	5

* The figures in Brackets indicate cases removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The case rate for the year per thousand of the population is 1·67, and for the previous two years 3·33 and 15·4 respectively. The mean rate for the past seven years is 4·1.

Small Pox.

No case of Small Pox has been notified in the District during the year 1904, nor in any year since the constitution of the District.

Scarlet Fever.

Only one case of Scarlet Fever has been notified and this occurred on Nov. 3. Enquiry failed to elicit the source of infection. The patient was removed to the Infection Diseases Hospital. During the previous seven years 58 cases were notified of which 4 were fatal. The mean case rate per 1,000 of the population is 2·3. Mean mortality-rate 0·1, and the Deaths per cent. of cases 6·8.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria has been notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the previous seven years is 9 (one fatal). The mean case rate per thousand of the population is 0·37; the mean mortality rate 0·04; and the deaths per cent of cases 11·1.

Typhoid Fever

No case of Typhoid Fever has been notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the previous seven years is 6, none of which were fatal. The mean case rate per thousand of the population is 0·22; mean mortality rate 0·00. Death per cent. of cases, 0·00.

Puerperal Fever.

There has been no case of Puerperal Fever notified during the year, and only two cases (1 fatal) have been notified in the District since its constitution and they occurred in 1897.

Erysipelas.

Four cases of Erysipelas have been notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the previous seven years is 25 (1 fatal). The mean case rate per thousand of the population is 1·0: the mean mortality-rate 0·04; deaths per cent. of cases 4·0.

Measles and Whooping Cough have caused no deaths during the year. Measles and Whooping Cough.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features.

The town of Royston is situate in the valley of the Cam on a gentle slope at the base of the chalk hills. The centre of the town is of some antiquity, but the town is being extended by the erection of modern buildings along the outskirts, especially the Melbourn and Kneesworth Roads. Its slightly elevated position on the porous chalk renders it generally dry. An ancient watercourse runs through the town and looses itself in the direction of Kneesworth in what would really be a small lake were it not for the extreme porosity of the soil which converts it into somewhat of a morass. This watercourse has been utilised as a surface water drain.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

House Accommodation.

The house accommodation for the artisan class has been adverted to in several of my previous reports. Cottages at a low rental for the poorer artisans are too few for the needs of the district, and therefore it is useless in cases of overcrowding to turn people out of houses when they cannot obtain a suitable house at a rent within their means.

The cottages mentioned in last year's report as being in a dilapidated and unhealthy condition have been placed in habitable repair.

During the year houses have been erected as follows: — Melbourn Road, 7; Green Street, 5; Old North Road, 1; Kneesworth Street, 2: Newmarket Road, 4; Baldock Road, 1; London Road, 1; Rock Road, 2; total, 23.

Three cases of overcrowding have been reported during the year. In one instance the nuisance has been only partially abated by removal of one member of the family, owing to the inability of the family to obtain a larger dwelling. In another instance the nuisance which occurred in a house in two tenements has been abated by the family renting the whole house. The third case was abated by the removal of some members of the household.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The sewerage system of the town is partially dual, consisting of excremental and surface water systems. The sewers are ventilated by shafts at convenient spots along the line of streets. The general condition of the sewers is good.

Fifteen of the newly erected houses have been connected with the sewer, and of the remainder, which are outside the sewerage area, four have w-c.'s connected with cesspools, and four have earth closets.

During the year two houses in Kneesworth Street, one house Queen's Road and four houses Melbourn Road have been connected to the sewer with the consequent abolition of a number of cesspools.

The sewage is at present disposed of on a sewage farm which has been in use a considerable number of years. With regard to the new scheme of sewage disposal mentioned in my previous report further steps have been taken, viz. :— (1) the acceptance of a tender for laying out the land and the construction of the out-fall sewer, (2) a resolution to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £200 in addition to the amount previously sanctioned in order to enable the works to be completed.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Excrement Disposal.

Water closets are in general use in the district, but a number of houses, chiefly outside the sewerage area, have pit privies or earth-closets; the latter are being gradually substituted for the former, as occasion requires, and during the year two earth closets have been substituted and the privy pits have been filled up.

Excrement from earth closets and pit-privies outside the sewerage area is disposed of on garden ground.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Removal of House Refuse.

There is a regular system of scavenging under the supervision of the Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water Supply.

The whole of the District is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company Limited.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.

Inspections.

The slaughter-houses, dairies, cow-sheds, and milk-shops have been regularly inspected and cleansing and lime-washing ordered where necessary and duly carried out.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories and Workshops.

The Factory and Workshops Act 1901 imposes several new and important powers and duties on the District Council.

FACTORIES :—There are no factories in the district where more than forty persons are employed.

WORKSHOPS :—The workshops in the district are as follows:—Bakehouses 5, Bootmakers 5, Bicycle Makers 3, Blacksmiths 3, Basket Makers 2, Builders 3, Carpenters 2, Coach Builders 2, Dressmakers 6, Masons 2, Plumbers 3, Photographer 1, Saddlers 2, Tailors 4, Watchmakers 3, Wheelwright 1. Total 47.

The workshops mentioned above have been inspected with regard to the points mentioned in the Memorandum as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health dated October, 1904, and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition, with one exception, and this was found to be overcrowded ; the nuisance has been abated on notice from the Inspector of Nuisances by the enlargement of the room.

The five bakehouses mentioned above have been periodically inspected during the year. There is no underground bakehouse in the district.

REGISTER :— A register of the workshops in the district has been compiled.

No notices of defects in workshops have been received from H.M. Inspector during the year.

NUISANCES.

Nuisances

In consequence of the blockage of the drain at Britannia Terrace an examination was made by the Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor, and Inspector of Nuisances, when defects in the drainage system of the Terrace of a serious character were found. A report on the subject was made to the District Council by the Medical Officer of

Health, whereupon the Council ordered notices to be served for the necessary remedial works to be executed, and as a consequence the main drain has been re-laid, the several soil pipes have been re-constructed and carried above the eaves of the houses, and the three outside w.c.'s which were previously hand-flushed have been supplied with flush-tanks.

In consequence of complaints made as to smells in a house in Back Street an examination was made by the Inspector of Nuisances when it was discovered that sewer gas from a defective drain and inspection chamber was escaping through a defective wall into the house. The nuisance has been abated by repairing the drain and the wall of the house.

Several complaints having been made of a cowshed several inspections were made by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances. A report on the subject by the Medical Officer of Health was presented to the District Council, whereupon a notice was served upon the owner to raise the level of the yard and repair the floor of the shed and these works have been carried into effect.

A number of minor nuisances arising from blocked drains, accumulations of manure, etc., have been abated on notice from the Inspector of Nuisances.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Isolation Hospital, etc.

The methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases are by notification followed by enquiry by the Medical Officer of Health, Inspector of Nuisances, or by both, according to the importance of the cases. The Isolation Hospital for the use of this District and the Ashwell and Melbourn Rural Districts is situate in Garden Walk, and during the year one case of Scarlet Fever had been admitted from this district. An Isolation Hut on the Hospital ground has been assigned for the purposes of a discharging room. Where cases were not removed advice was given as to the safe isolation at home. The School Authorities are informed of the households in which infectious diseases have occurred with a request to exclude all the members until they are free from infection.

In threatened outbreaks of Diphtheria prophylactic injections of Antitoxin are recommended for the protection of

all persons who are known to have been exposed to the chances of infection, and bacterial examination of the mucous passages of all known "Contacts" is also recommended for the discovery of any unsuspected case of the disease.

At the conclusion of a case the infected rooms and articles contained therein are disinfected by ærial disinfectants or by the formalin spray, and the bedding, etc., disinfected at the steam disinfecting oven at the Isolation Hospital.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Adoptive Acts

The Adoptive Acts in operation in the District are the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890; and Part III of Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890.

Statistical Tables.

All the above remarks together with the Tables of Statistics required by the Local Government Board, and the Inspector's Record of Work, I respectfully submit to the Urban District Council.

BUSHELL ANNINGSON.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON.

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Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban District of Royston during the year ending December 31st, 1904.

Complaints received	17
Nuisances detected without complaint	22
Nuisances abated	31
Notices served	6
Summonses taken out	0
Convictions	0
Cottages inspected	260
Lodging-houses inspected	0
Slaughter-houses inspected	4
Bakehouses inspected	5
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	6
Cowsheds inspected	7
Workshops inspected	47
Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	0
Houses disinfected	1
Overcrowding abated	3
Houses placed in habitable repair	5
Houses closed	0
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded ...	0
Wells cleansed or repaired	0
Wells closed	0
Houses connected with sewers	24
Houses connected with water mains	26
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or altered ..	7
Privies and W.C.'s repaired or supplied with water ...	3
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	0
Animals improperly kept removed	5
Samples of water taken for Analysis	0
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	0
Seizure of unsound Meat, etc	0
Travellers' Vans visited	46

W. J. WEBB,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

For the Urban District of Royston.

Table showing Vital Statistics for the year 1904 and the antecedent seven years.

Year.	Population estimated to the middle of the year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under one year.		At all ages.						
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	*Rate.				Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
†1897	3437	89	25·8	6	67	57	16·5	13	14	1	44	12·8
1898	3458	71	20·5	11	155	58	16·7	6	3	1	56	16·1
1899	3478	88	25·3	11	125	79	22·4	18	19	2	62	17·8
1900	3497	63	18·0	3	47	59	16·8	20	17	2	44	12·5
1901	3517	90	25·5	7	77	57	16·2	16	14	1	44	12·5
1902	3543	76	21·4	7	92	62	17·4	16	16	1	47	13·2
1903	3564	70	19·6	9	128	55	15·4	20	15	2	42	11·7
Averages for years 1897-1903	3499	78	22·3	8	102	61	17·4	15	14	1	48	13·7
1904	3584	79	22·0	9	113	59	16.4	22	15	1	45	12·5

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of population.

† District constituted in this year.

Note.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the substraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in column 11.

By the term "Non-resident" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The Public Institutions taken into account for the purpose of this and Table IV. are the Union Workhouse, and the Cottage Hospital, Royston; Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and the Three Counties Asylum, near. Hitchin.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,003

Total population at all ages	3517	At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	805	
Average number of persons per house	4·3	

TABLE II.

Omitted by direction of the Local Government Board as needless for small and undivided districts.

TABLE III.

The Urban District of Royston.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							No. of cases removed to Hospital.
		At Ages—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'ds	
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Membranoous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Varicella	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	5	..	1	..	..	2	2	1

Note—The Isolation Hospital for the use of this District and the Ashwell, and Melbourn Rural Districts is situate in Garden Walk Royston.

TABLE IV.

The Urban District of Royston.

Causes of Death at several age periods during the Year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to the whole District at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Other continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa.	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipleas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Phthisis	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Other tubercular diseases	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	4
Bronchitis	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Pneumonia	4	3	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcholism. Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases & accidents of Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
Accidents	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Murders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not Certified	3	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
All other causes	17	..	1	..	..	4	12	9
All causes	45	9	1	..	..	11	24	22

See Notes on next page.

NOTES ON TABLE IV.

(*a*) In this Table all deaths of "residents" occuring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner excluded from columns 2-8 of this Table.

(*b*) *See* note on Table I. as to meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" taken into account for the purposes of these tables.

(*c*) All deaths occurring in public institutions situate within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (*a*) entered in the last column of this Table.

(*d*) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholora nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health has reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Under the headings of "Puerperal Fever," "Phthisis," and "Cancer" are included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease are included under the latter.